



**COMMANDING GENERAL**  
1ST MARINE DIVISION (REIN), FMF  
CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA 92055-5380

25 August 2004

A letter from the Commanding General to the Families of our Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines serving with 1st Marine Division.

It is with great pride and humility that I assume command of the 1st Marine Division. The continuing support of your loved ones under challenging conditions of deployment has been and will continue to be absolutely critical. Our troops are deployed during a decisive time in the development of Iraq. The evening news does little to report on the hundreds of positive accomplishments and work done by the 1st Marine Division for the Iraqi people. Everyday we work to restore decrepit infrastructures, reopen schools, rebuild the Iraqi police and security forces, all of which foster the seeds of democracy. These Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines stand shoulder to shoulder, everyday, to meet the evil enemy that wants to preclude peace and stability in Iraq and the Middle East.

As members of the 1st Marine Division family, our Family Readiness Program and the Key Volunteer Network (KVN) will continue to help keep you informed concerning the deployment and the challenges faced at home and abroad. Despite short notice and long periods of separation, you have demonstrated incredible faith and courage in your loved ones. This continued sacrifice and support of your family members serving this great nation forms the base of the national treasure that is the 1st Marine Division. Thank you for your deep and unwavering support.

Please keep asking your questions and we will do our best to keep you informed. I am enormously proud of our dedicated hard working Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines and their families. As this deployment continues, your integral role remains a core source for the success of the 1st Marine Division Family. God Bless.

Semper Fidelis,

R. F. NATONSKI  
Major General, U.S. Marines